

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 AID-05 SY-04 A-01

OPR-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /098 W

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R 061405Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3245

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

UNCLAS LUANDA 0156

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL REPORT ON FEBRUARY THREE VIOLENCE

REF: LUANDA 0142 AND 0134

1. THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA, THROUGH AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION, ISSUED A REPORT ON FEBRUARY FIVE EXPLAINING THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE VIOLENCE ON FEBRUARY THREE THAT RESULTED IN EIGHT DEATHS. THE REPORT LISTS TWO PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICERS, AN FNLA SERGEANT AND FIVE CIVILIANS AS KILLED, AND TWELVE PEOPLE WOUNDED, INCLUDING ANOTHER PORTUGUESE OFFICER, TWO FNLA SOLDIERS AND NINE CIVILIANS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE INCIDENT CAME ABOUT ON FEBRUARY THREE WHEN BLACKS HEARD A RUMOR THAT A PORTUGUESE
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MERCHANT WHO LIVED ON THE FRINGE OF A BLACK GHETTO, HAD KILLED

SEVERAL BLACKS THE PREVIOUS EVENING. MPLA SOLDIERS AND PORTUGUESE ARMY TROOPS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND RESCUED THE MERCHANT FROM THE GROWING MOB. THE MOB THEN SACKED THE MERCHANT'S STORE. TROOPS FROM FNLA AND UNITA ARRIVED TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING ORDER. THE MOB STONED SOME PORTUGUESE TROOPS AND, FOR REASONS STILL UNEXPLAINED, MPLA SOLDIERS BEGAN FIRING INTO THE AIR, THEN THEY "AIMED LOW" AND FIRED INTO THE CROWD, CAUSING THE TWENTY CASUALTIES.

3. THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT MPLA SOLDIERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS, BUT THAT "IT HAS NOT BEEN PROVED" THEY INTENDED TO HARM ANYONE, OR THAT THE SHOOTING WAS ORDERED. MPLA HAS AGREED TO HOLD AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THOSE WHO FIRED INTO THE CROWD. THE COMMISSION ALSO DETERMINED THAT THE RUMOR ABOUT THE MERCHANT KILLING BLACKS WAS UNFOUNDED.

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